

MINUTES
Town of North
September 11, 2006
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Present were Council members Binyard, Lane and Gleaton. Also in attendance were Mark Fallaw, Chief of Police, and Carrie Windham, Town Clerk. Councilman Drew wasn't able to attend.

Mayor Jeffcoat welcomed visitors.

The Minutes from the August 14, 2006 meeting were approved.

Special Presentations:

Jason McRee from DHEC spoke on DHEC's burning regulations. He noted that after any city ordinances on burning, everyone is subject to these regulations. The items permitted to burn are: yard waste (i.e. grass and bush trimmings, leaves), construction site raw wood, or special permission may be given for scientific research. He urged only to burn clean wood, not: plywood, plastic, treated lumber, painted lumber, etc. He noted that there is a substantial penalty for not adhering to these guidelines, and encouraged anyone with questions to call his office. Mr. McRee also discussed asbestos removal and how it relates to regulations regarding demolition of houses. He noted that property for demolition is under looser guidelines if the property remains in an individual's name. If the property is transferred to the Town, the Town must abide by much stricter regulations.

Highway 321 Report:

Jeffcoat reported that the project is coming along, but has suffered from delays due to rain.

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Jeffcoat presented the water sewer report for August 2006, (copy attached). Jeffcoat also reported that the Town water supply has received radon level clearance from DHEC. The water supply tests indicated radon levels within appropriate amounts for four consecutive quarters and will not be retested for several years.

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw reviewed the North Police report (copy attached). He noted that the Group A, B and C Offenses are down from last month. He also noted that many crimes are Crimes of Opportunity and most can be prevented by simply not leaving valuables in sight in your vehicle and locking up your belongings. Fallaw reported that Reserve Officer Combs has passed his certification test and will finish training in September.

Fallaw also gave an update on the ABWIC. Three arrests have been made with one more warrant to be served.

Councilwoman Lane commented on the functionality of the non-emergency line (247-5801).

Old Business:

- Jeffcoat gave an update on the audit. He explained that the auditors have completed 2004 audit and should have 2005 completed this week. The auditors should appear at October's Council Meeting to answer any questions.
- Mayor Jeffcoat reviewed the financial statement (attached).
- Jeffcoat advised Council that the Town is under opportunity to participate in the State Health Insurance Program and if the Town changes to this program, benefits will increase and rates for the Town will decrease. Some employees will see a substantial decrease but two will see an increase. After discussion on the rates and benefits, Councilwoman Lane made a motion to accept the proposed plan to apply for State Health Insurance Benefits. Councilwoman Binyard seconded the motion. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion was carried.
- Jeffcoat advised that the purchase of utility software hasn't been completed yet, and that a new software company has been located that appears to have much better services. Upon discussion, it was decided that the motion that was passed to purchase new utility software covers this purchase.
- Councilwoman Lane made a motion that the 2006-2007 budget as presented be approved (copy attached). Councilman Gleaton seconded the motion. Upon vote, this motion was carried and the 2006-2007 budget was passed.

New Business:

Jeffcoat reported the Community of Character Trait for September is Safety.

Jeffcoat mentioned the application for two grants. One for the Streetscape project, and one for demolition of abandoned houses and overgrown lots which will greatly improve the appearance of our town.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jeffcoat announced that he and Councilwoman Lane attended the Orangeburg County Council meeting wherein North Community Family School requested support from the County. Councilmen Heyward Livingston and Clyde Livingston both are in support of the North Community Family School. The County Council voted to provide some financial support to their project.

Jeffcoat also noted that we are expecting a Civil Affairs Operation this weekend. He has not received any details of this operation yet.

Lower Savannah Council Government is offering a training which Mayor Jeffcoat and Councilwoman Binyard are planning to attend. Councilwoman Lane formerly attended this training.

Jeffcoat reported that the shed is complete to house the Town's tractors and other equipment. This shed was funded with penny sales tax funds.

There being no further business, Mayor Jeffcoat adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Joe Gleaton closed the meeting in prayer.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Carrie Windham

APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 11, 2006 MINUTES

Mayor Earl Jeffocat: _____

Council Members:

Paul Drew: _____

Rose Binyard: _____

Harriett Lane: _____

Aubrey Gleaton: _____